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Security Council

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Resolution 2439 (2018)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 8385th meeting, on 30 October 2018

The Security Council,

Expressing grave concern about the most recent outbreak of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the fact that this epidemic is occurring in the context of much wider humanitarian needs, in a country whose people have suffered from the recurrence of the disease, armed conflict and violence for the last few decades,

Recognizing the recurring threat of the Ebola virus in the region since it was first discovered in 1976 and *recalling* its Resolution 2177 (2014) concerning the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa,

Recalling its determination in resolution 2409 (2018) that the situation in the DRC continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region, and *expressing* concern that this security situation negatively impacts the ability to respond to and contain the outbreak of the Ebola virus,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC and all States in the region, and emphasizing the need for cooperation and coordination with the DRC to address the Ebola situation, as well as with the States in the region, as appropriate,

Noting the reports presented to the Security Council on 28 August and on 3 October 2018 by the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO),

Commending the Government of the DRC for its leadership in responding to the Ebola outbreak, particularly for providing free health care in affected health zones, as well as for its daily reporting on the status of the outbreak,

Expressing appreciation for the efforts of all humanitarian and health workers on the ground, including the WHO and its partners in the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, as well as all other front-line actors involved in the response effort,

Commending the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) for providing support to the efforts of the government of the DRC, the WHO and other actors to respond to the Ebola outbreak in an extremely challenging and dangerous environment,

Underscoring the need to address the security situation in the areas affected by the disease and condemning all attacks against civilians,

Expressing outrage and *condemning* in the strongest terms the recent attacks and the killings of two Congolese health workers attached to a Congolese army unit helping to combat the Ebola outbreak in the DRC,

Recalling resolution 2286 (2016) and urging all parties to the armed conflict to ensure full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for humanitarian personnel and medical personnel, to patients and others in need; condemning acts of violence, attacks and threats intentionally directed against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, exclusively fulfilling a medical or humanitarian function, as a violation of international humanitarian law; and *deploring* the long-term consequences of such attacks for the civilian population and the health-care system of the DRC,

Recalling the International Health Regulations (2005), which are contributing to global public health security by improving the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health threats, *underscoring* the importance of abiding by these commitments and *urging* Member States to follow the advice of the WHO Director General regarding the current Ebola outbreak,

Taking note of the cross-border meeting among east African countries held in Entebbe, Uganda, on 3 October 2018, which reviewed the implementation of cross-border disease surveillance activities and the status of emergency preparedness activities in districts that border the DRC and the East African Community; *noting* the need for awareness creation among district leaders in their roles in implementing the IHRs (2005), and *drawing* attention to large-scale population displacements in the region that could contribute to further spread of the Ebola virus,

Underscoring that the control of outbreaks of major infectious diseases requires urgent action and greater national, regional and international collaboration and, in this regard, *stressing* the crucial and continued need for a WHO coordinated international response in the DRC in collaboration with the Government,

Commending Member States and multilateral organizations that have provided crucial assistance, including financial commitments, technical support and in-kind donations, to support the scaling up of emergency efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak and interrupt transmission of the virus, including by providing flexible funds to relevant UN agencies and international organizations, facilitating a more rapid and effective response and enabling them and national governments to purchase supplies and enhance emergency operations in the DRC and neighbouring countries, as well as by collaborating with public and private sector partners to accelerate development of therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics to treat patients and limit or prevent further infection or transmission,

Welcoming the efforts of the African Union (AU), through the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in providing support to the government of the DRC, WHO and its partners through a united, comprehensive and collective response to the outbreak, including through the deployment of healthcare workers to the eastern part of the DRC,

Emphasizing the role of all relevant United Nations System entities in supporting the national, regional and international efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak, and recognizing in this regard the leading role of the WHO,

Taking note of the WHO protocols to prevent the transmission of the Ebola virus disease between individuals, organizations and populations, and *underlining* that the

Ebola outbreak can be contained, including through the implementation of established safety and health protocols and other preventive measures that have proven effective,

1. *Reiterates* its deep concern regarding the overall security and humanitarian situation in the DRC, exacerbated by destabilizing activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, recalls the strategic importance of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region, and *reiterates* its call to all signatories to fulfil their respective commitments under this Framework in order to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence, and promote lasting regional development;

2. *Encourages* the government of the DRC, WHO, and other Ebola responders to continue to improve the transparency and accuracy of the daily reporting on the status of the outbreak;

3. *Recalls* that the Government of the DRC bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes;

4. *Expresses* serious concern regarding the security situation in the areas affected by the Ebola outbreak, which is severely hampering the response efforts and facilitating the spread of the virus in the DRC and the wider region; and *calls for* immediate cessation of hostilities by all armed groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF);

5. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all attacks by armed groups, including those posing serious security risks for responders and jeopardizing the response to the Ebola outbreak;

6. *Demands* that all parties to the armed conflict fully respect international law, including, as applicable, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005, and *further demands* that all parties ensure full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for humanitarian and medical personnel, and their equipment, transport and supplies to the affected areas, and to respect and protect all civilians, including those in the region who are at risk of Ebola, and humanitarian and health workers; *stresses* that humanitarian response teams and hospitals and other medical facilities providing life-saving assistance and relief to those in need must be respected and protected, and that they must not be a target, in accordance with international law;

7. *Notes* the important positive role of MONUSCO, within its existing mandate, in supporting the efforts of the government of the DRC, the WHO and other actors to bring the Ebola outbreak successfully under control and in ensuring, within its area of operations, effective protection of civilians;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for the Government of the DRC, and all relevant actors providing assistance in response to the Ebola outbreak, to enhance efforts to communicate to the public, as well as to implement, the established safety and health protocols and preventive measures to mitigate against misinformation and undue alarm about the transmission and extent of the outbreak among and between individuals and communities; *underscores* the need to enhance community engagement working closely with religious leaders, youth and women's groups and with the families themselves, including in the context of resumed humanitarian assistance efforts;

9. *Emphasizes* that men and women are affected differently by the Ebola outbreak and underlines that a gender-sensitive response that addresses the specific

needs of both men and women is required, and *stresses* the importance of the full, active and meaningful engagement of women in the development of such responses;

10. *Stresses* the need for continuous and improved surveillance of those who have been in contact with infected people as well as the need for following-up with Ebola survivors, ensuring they are clinically monitored to prevent any delayed clinical manifestations and the risk of sexual transmission of Ebola; *underlines* the need to provide Ebola survivors with psychological and social support to help them face and overcome possible stigmatization;

11. *Takes note* of WHO's latest assessment of the risk of regional spread and expresses great concern about the potential for the virus to spread into Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi and encourages those governments to continue efforts to prepare for operational readiness, in full cooperation with WHO;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of maintaining international support and engagement — financially, technically and in-kind — to bring the Ebola outbreak successfully under control; stresses in this context the importance of flexible financial support for the response efforts, enabling a more rapid and effective response, a*lso expresses* concern that the overall humanitarian appeal for the DRC remains severely underfunded;

13. *Encourages* the Government of the DRC and countries of the region to continue efforts to address and resolve the wider political, security, socioeconomic and humanitarian consequences of the Ebola outbreak, as well as to provide sustainable and responsive public health mechanisms;

14. *Requests* all relevant parts of the United Nations System to accelerate their response to the Ebola outbreak, within the overall coordination of WHO, including by supporting the development and implementation of preparedness and operational plans and liaison and collaboration with governments of the region and those providing assistance;

15. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain engaged in supporting the strengthening of national health systems, in line with the needs of the government of DRC, which are instrumental in preventing a deterioration of the present crisis or addressing a future recurrence;

16. *Welcomes* action and results of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and *encourages* the WHO and the whole UN system to build on and benefit from the lessons learned from the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa in 2014, and to continue to further strengthen its technical leadership and operational support, monitor Ebola transmission, assist in identifying existing response needs and partners to meet those needs to facilitate the availability of essential data and hasten the development and implementation of therapies and vaccines according to best clinical and ethical practices;

17. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.